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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Brandenburg

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INTELEX-14

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 11 to 8 June 1951

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DATE PREPARED

17 July 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. On 5 June 1951, the Flak Kaserne on Magdeburgerstrasse, Brandenburg (N 53/E 23), was occupied by about 150 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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2. On 6 June, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne still quartered about 2,000 troops. Groups of soldiers practiced stringing telephone lines in the barracks yard. Six light prime movers were parked in front of the garages.

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3. No army troops were observed in the Pioneer Kaserne on 8 June. *

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- a. An instruction schedule for the technical personnel of a 3d Platoon, probably of an engineer company, dated 6 December 1950, and approved by Gds Senior Lieutenant Chermoshentsev, (fnu), commanding officer of a 2d Co of Unit A. Engineer equipment mentioned in the schedule included a model RB-45 hand pile-driver weighing 125 kg; a model MUX-1 pile-driver frame; a model DP-45 device, possibly also a pile-driver; and a model RIK-3 device, possibly a Diesel-powered pile-driver.

- b. A fragment of a notebook with data on the combat history of the Third Gds Tank Army. An excerpt of the notes read "The army was activated by order of Comrade Stalin on 30 May 1942, in a year when the U.S.S.R. was still alone in fighting the Germans and their allies, since the Western Allies had not yet established the Second Front and also were not in a hurry to do so. This was the situation when the Third Gds Tank Army was activated. Key officers of the army were Lieutenant General Romanenko, commander-in-chief; Major General Rybalko, deputy commander; Major General Molnikov, member of the War Council; and Colonel Kapnik, chief of the political section. On 12 August 1942, Stalin called the army commander to the Kremlin and ordered him to annihilate a strong German force advancing toward Moscow. On 22 August 1942, the Third Gds Tank Army attacked in the Kozelsk area, broke through the German defense line and annihilated two armored divisions and two infantry divisions. In mid-September 1942, the army was withdrawn from the front and Major General Rybalko

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appointed commander-in-chief. The glorious achievements of the army have been connected with the name of this general ever since. In late December 1942, the army was ordered to assemble in the Kantemirovka area behind the Voronezh front which was done during the first days of January 1943. The offensive was launched on 14 January and the army broke through the German defense line, seized Rossosh on 17 January and Valuiki some days later. On 15 February 1943, the army liberated Kharkov and pursued the enemy toward Poltava and Krasnograd. Despite their heavy losses, the Germans were stubborn defenders, and, concentrating large forces in front of our advancing armored units, started a counter attack with the object of encircling and annihilating our troops. Heavily fighting, our tank troops withdrew to the Donets River and occupied defensive positions there. According to an order from Stalin on 14 May 1943, the army was awarded the guards title. In the summer of 1943, the army participated in the Orel-Kursk operation. Following the heavy battles at Orel during the summer of 1943, the tank units of the army concentrated in the Romny area at the Voronezh front on 19 September 1943 to participate in the offensive toward Kiev. " **

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Comment. The report indicates no changes in the occupation of the barracks installations in Brandenburg since 24 May 1951.

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Comment. Gds Senior Lieutenant Chernoshentsev, (2nd), is known from a previous report schedule of 30 September 1950 as the commanding officer of the 2d Co of the unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFB in Potsdam. The combat history of the Third Gds Tank Army now Third Gds Mecz Army corresponds to the records available. Colonel General P.L. Romanenko was the postwar commander-in-chief of the East Siberia MD and died in March 1949. Marshal of Tank Troops P.Z. Rybalko was the postwar commander-in-chief of the Armored and Mechanized Troops of the Soviet Army and died in August 1948. The present appointment of Lieutenant General of Tank Troops S.I. Melnikov is not known. He was last mentioned by the Soviet press on the occasion of Tank Troops' Day in Moscow in September 1949. Major General A.D. Kapnik was last identified in Luckenwalde in August 1949, when he was probably still chief of the political section of the Third Gds Mecz Army.

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